Upgradation of telephone exchange in Tehri and Uttarkashi

†1249. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a target was laid down to open nine new Telephone Exchanges and upgradation of three exchanges and linking of 16 telephone exchanges with Microwave system and 8 telephone exchanges with satellite telephone in border District of Tehri and Uttarkashi during the year 1998-99; and

(b) if so, the actual position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The works mentioned were planned during 1998-99 but their execution was subject to availability of equipment and feasibility of the schemes. The actual position of the works is as follows:

(i) Out of 9 new telephone exchanges originally planned, four were commissioned in 1998-99 and two in 1999-2000. The remaining three exchanges were not found necessary as telephone connections have been provided in these places from nearest exchanges.

(ii) The three exchanges planned to be upgraded from MILT to C-DoT type have been upgraded. One was upgraded during 1998-99 and the remaining two in 1999-2000.

(iii) Out of sixteen exchanges planned to be connected by UHF or other reliable media, four were connected by UHF during 1998-99 and four during 1999-2000. The remaining eight are proposed during 2000-2001.

(iv) Out of eight exchanges proposed to be connected through Satellite system or other reliable media, one was connected with MCPC VSAT during 1998-99 and five during 1999-2000. The remaining two are proposed during 2000-2001.

Status of optical fibre system at Tehri-Uttarkashi

†1250. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes taken up for laying optical fibre in view of providing better

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

telecommunication services in District Tehri-Uttarkashi during the year 1998-99;

(b) the present status thereof alongwith the measures being taken to achieve the set target in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No scheme was taken up for laying optical fibre cable in Tehri-Uttarkashi during the year 1998-99.

(b) and (c) Following schemes have now been planned and taken up for execution:

(i) Rishikesh-Narender Nagar-Chamba-New Tehri scheme is under execution and targetted to be commissioned by March 2000.

(ii) Mussoorie-Campty Nainbagh-Damta-Naugaon-Barkot-Bahmakhal-Chinnyalison-Dunda-Uttarkashi scheme is planned for the year 2000-2001.

(iii) Deoprayag-Hindula Khal-Anjani Sain-Ghansali scheme is planned for the year 2000-2001.

All the above schemes would be commissioned subject to availability of resources.

Non-Payment of Money-Order

1251. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the complaint cell in the Ministry of Communications has received any complaint regarding non-payment of money order No. BE 4115 Murthal, of Rs. 1000 despatched on 5th November, 1999 from Bhagan Branch, District Sonipat which was to be delivered at Village and Post Lal Basepura, District Samastipur, Bihar;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. A complaint in this regard was received in the Postal Directorate on 4.2.2000.